GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7193
ANSWERED ON:13.05.2005
AD VALOREM
Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the negotiation in Geneva has entered a stalemate and differences over the conversion of specific duty into ad valorem equivalents remain unresolved;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Indian Government to coordinate with other developing countries to take the issue of conversion of specific duty into ad valorem equivalents; and

(d) the response of other developing countries in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (S.S.PALANIMANICKAM)

(a)&(b) In the Ministerial Meetings of the Five Interested Parties (FIPs) and the Mini-Ministerial Meeting of some Members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) held at Paris on 3-4 MAy, 2005 a broad understanding has been reached among them on the issue of methodology for conversion of non-ad valorem duties to their ad valorem equivalents in respect of agricultural products. A decision whether to adopt this methodology or not will be taken in the WTO Committee on Agriculture, Special Session, with the consensus of its Members. Discussions on the methodology for conversion in context of the negotiations on market access for non-agriculture products are still underway.

(c)&(d) India has been making all efforts in the negotiations under the Doha Work Programme of the WTO to ensure that the outcome of the negotiations is consistent with India`s objectives and priorities, including by building coalitions with other Members of the WTO holding similar interests and concerns.